No decision regarding privatisation of the working coal mines of Coal India Limited has been taken by the Government.

[English]

Foreign Trade With Russia

6629. SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether volume of foreign trade between India and Russia is steadily on the decline;

(b) if so, whether this matter came up for discussion in the recent summit talks between the Hon'ble Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Hon'ble Prime Minister of India on his recent Moscow visit;

(c) if so, the details and the outcomes thereof; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken in order to correct the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) No, Sir. The Indo-Russian trade increased in rupee terms by 44.6% and 54.3% during the years 1994-95 and 1995-96 respectively over the previous years. However, there has been a decline of 22.6% in rupee terms in the Indo-Russian trade during the period April-February 1996-97 over the corresponding period of previous year.

(b) and (c) Indo-Russian trade also came up for discussion during the talks between Prime Minister of India and the Russian President in March, 1997 in Moscow. During the meeting, it was acknowledged that the current volume of Indo-Russian trade turnover was not large, and steps are needed to be taken to increase it.

(d) Various steps have been initiated by the Government to arrest the decline and enhance the Indo-Russian trade. These steps include encouraging consignment sales and opening of warehouses, broadbasing the basket of tradable goods, signing of Agreement on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Customs, impressing upon Russian Federation for early allocation of rupee funds, opening of Indian banks, participation in trade fairs and exhibiions, enhancing the trade in the area of pharmaceuticals reduction of value addition norms from 100% to 75% in respect of certain hitech items including personal computers for export to Russia under the debt repayment route etc.

Transaction made by STC & MMTC

6630. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the trade undertaken by STC and MMTC during 1995-96 and 1996-97; and

(b) the profit/loss earned by STC and MMTC during the above years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) Details of turnover achieved by STC & MMTC alongwith the profit earned during 1995-96 and 1996-97 are given below :-

(Value in Rs. Crore)

	Year	Turnover	Net profit
STC	1995-96	1685	22
	1996-97*	2317	44*
MMTC	1995-96	6224	52
	1996-97*	4678	55*

*(Provisional)

Captive Coal Blocks

6631. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received some representations from the independent power products who had been allotted captive coal blocks are now willing to give up the captive mines and go for cheaper coal supply from public sector coal companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether out of 47 blocks identified for captive operations, 24 blocks have been offered to the private sector and in only three or four blocks mining activities have been initiated; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to come out with some concrete fiscal incentives for private participation in this sector ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) M/s. Development Consultants Ltd., a private company who had been offered Chuperbita block in Rajmahal area of Eastern Coalfields Limited for captive consumption for power generation have declined the offer and submitted

a proposal for coal linkage.

(c) and (d) So far captive coal blocks have been offered to 19 companies in the private and public sector including power utilities of the State Governments for captive consumption for power generation and production of iron and steel. 9 companies have submitted their mining plans out of which 5 mining plans have been approved. Subject to legislative approval, it has also been decided to allot coal mining blocks to Indian companies on the basis of competitive bidding. The coal so extracted can be sold in the open market.

The Government has no proposal for providing any incentives for private sector in coal mining.

Trade with Germany

6632. SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have fixed any target for trade between India and Germany during 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any loss in import from Germany to India according to Indo-German Commercial Confederation;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether India has imported only machinery from Germany; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) While no Specific target has been fixed for trade between India and Germany during 1997, bilateral trade between India and Germany has been increasing in the recent years and efforts are made to further increase the same. The Indo-German two way trade for the past few years is as under :-

Year	Indo-German bilateral trade	
	Rs. crores	US$ mn
94-95	12354.68	3934.79
95-96	17127.14	5120.62
96-97 (Apr. 96 - Jan. 97)	13926.13	3931.27

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) 'Machinery' forms the largest component of India's imports from Germany. India's import of other products from Germany include chemicals and pharmaceuticals; iron and steel; vehicles; electrical and precision instruments.

Sonepur and Bazari Villages

6633. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether all the Land losers in Sonepur and Bazari villages have been rehabilitated so far;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the remaining six villages are likely to be rehabilited by 1997-98;

(e) if so, details of the steps taken in this respect; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Only 68 families living in Ruidaspara of Sonepur village have been rehabilitated.

(c) Villagers living in other parts of Sonepur and Bazari villages could not be rehabilitated due to their reluctance to shift to alternative sites.

(d) to (f) Out of six villages, Panjabidanga village will be shifted by 1997-98. The rehabilitation site for Panjabidanga in Ningah Mouja is being developed. The shifting of remaining five villages will be taken up later as they do not come within the mining area required by the project in the next five years.

Export and Import of Tea and Coffee

6634. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of tea and coffee imported/ exported during each of the last three years; and

(b) the target fixed for the export of these commodities during 1997-98 ?